pointed out the correspondence in outline of each division with the form of the two-celled anther. The inner line of stamens were alternate with these divisions, and the whole study led to the conclusion that this little crown was composed of the immature anthers of abortive stamens. He referred to *Acer rubrum*, and other plants, where, in the abortion of stamens the anthers were generally almost fully formed before the development of the filament, and remarked that in truly female flowers of this maple there was a course of sterile anthers as in this *Spiræa*.

MARCH 16.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Sixteen persons present.

MARCH 23.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-eight persons present.

Fermentation in Perenji's Fluid.—Dr. BENJAMIN SHARP remarked that in a bottle of Perenji's fluid (nitric acid 10 per cent. sol. 4 pts., Chromic acid ½ per cent. sol. 3 pts., 95 per cent. Alcohol 3 pts.) effervescence was noticed. On shaking the bottle and removing the cork the fluid frothed violently, resembling very active beer; when the frothing had to a certain extent subsided, another shaking produced another violent frothing. The fluid had been used for hardening chick embryoes, and the portion used had been turned back so that a slight sediment was in the bottom of the bottle, and from this sediment the frothing seemed to originate. The sediment was examined with a high power lens, and Bacteria were found in great numbers. They were probably introduced with the sediment caused by the hardening of the organic tissues upon which they lived.

On the Eye of Pecten.—Prof. SHARP further called the attention of the members to the eye of *Pecten*. In one of his articles (On the Visual Organs of the Lamellebranchiata, Mitth. Zool. Stat. Neapel, 1884, p. 457), he makes the following assertion: "The question as to the function of this organ (the so-called eye of *Pecten*) is one of considerable interest. Hickson states that a few experiments have been made on this subject, concerning the visual power of this animal; he says 'It is very doubtful whether they (the so-called eyes) are of much value to the animal in avoiding its enemies. The most reasonable theory of their function seems to be that when in the ebbing tide, a